

REMARKS

In the patent application, claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15 are pending. In the office action, all pending claims are rejected.

Applicant has amended claims 1, 7 and 13 to delete the word “substantially”. Applicant has also amended claims 7, 9 and 10 to replace the word “means” by “a software program”. Claim 13 has also been amended to replace the word “means” by “module”. The support for the amendment regarding “a software program” can be found on p.6, lines 19 – 22.

No new matter has been introduced.

In the office action, all pending claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chew et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,664,991, hereafter referred to as *Chew*) in view of *Clark et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,995,101, hereafter referred to as *Clark*).

In rejecting claims 1, 7 and 13, the Examiner states that *Chew* discloses a series of operational steps including:

contacting the screen at the designated area by the physical object by pressing (col.1, line 56 to col.2, line 9); and

keeping the physical object at the designated area longer than a selected time to cause the electronic device to provide the message.

The Examiner cites *Clark* for disclosing tool tips.

The Examiner also states that *Chew* discloses moving the physical object off the desired area while keeping the physical object substantially on the screen after displaying the message to end the message (col.4, lines 7-9).

On page 4 of the office action, the Examiner states that the term “keeping the physical object substantially on the screen” is not analogous to “keeping the physical object on the screen”.

Applicant has deleted the word “substantially” from claims 1, 7 and 13.

It is respectfully submitted that, at col.4, lines 5-9, *Chew* discloses:

Once the context menu is displayed, the user may select one of the entries using the stylus or an external up/down control. The user can dismiss the context menu without a selection. Under one embodiment, this is done by touching the stylus outside the context menu.

In plain English, touching a touch-sensitive screen means moving a physical object into contacting the screen from a non-contacting position. *Chew* does not disclose moving the stylus off the desired area while keeping the stylus substantially on the screen to end the message.

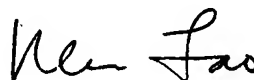
For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 7 and 13, as amended, are clearly distinguishable over the cited *Chew* and *Clark* references.

As for claims 3-6, 9-12 and 15, they are dependent from claims 1, 7 and 13 and recite features not recited in claims 1, 7 and 13. For reasons regarding claims 1, 7 and 13 above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-6, 9-12 and 15 are also distinguishable over the cited *Chew* and *Clark* references.

CONCLUSION

As amended, claims 1, 3-7, 9-13 and 15 are allowable. Early allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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